

in front of people and get them to understand the system, which you can't do in five and ten minutes here, they'll understand that there is some reason for this. I, personally, don't think cutting an average length of time...length of stay from 20 days to 17 days is that much, and I don't see it as a reward. If a person...and again,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: ...again, you must remember that quite a big share of the people that are sitting in county jail are awaiting adjudication, they are not doing sentences. We're talking about sentences for misdemeanors. I would like to be able to take each and every one of you through the system and have you understand how the good time works as far as for the people who work in them systems, and how you manage a jail. I can't sit down without telling you that the real conservative people, the Christian people have no problem with building jails and I don't either if you're going to take care of them. But if you get down at that other end and all you're going to do is put them in there and, because they are worthless people, let them kill one another and call that Christian, I do not. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I had stayed out of this discussion up to this point because I didn't want to be injected as an issue, but so much misinformation, so much ignorance about the system has been spewed, and Senator Pedersen has made a step in the direction of trying to correct some of it, based on those considerations I have to say something. Senator Jensen, you were talking about being tough on crime. This is not a tough on crime issue. As Senator Pedersen pointed out, we're talking about very minor offenses, not felonies. As Senator Vrtiska brought out through his questioning, and it'll correct a false impression Senator Witek gave, we're not talking about prisons, we're not talking about people serving two years. The ignorance on this floor should let us know why the public is so ignorant. We, whose job it is to know and understand the issues on which we legislate, do not assume that responsibility, and that's why there is so much ignorance when you all campaign. People don't know what the truth is, and rather than tell them the truth, you fall into that bag and say, okay, I'll do just what you want. We have different perceptions of what our job is. Mine, as I've said